

REMARKS

The Official Action dated June 30, 2003, has been carefully considered. Accordingly, the changes presented herewith, taken with the following remarks, are believed sufficient to place the present invention in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all remaining claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-32 and 35-38 have been amended, and claim 39 has been added, all amendments and additions finding support in the specification as filed. It is believed that these changes and additions do not involve any introduction of new matter, whereby entry is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested. Claims 16-39 remain in the case for consideration.

In the Official Action, claims 16-37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter Applicants regard as the invention. Particularly, the Examiner asserted that claims 16 and 37 were indefinite and confusing in recitation of "a poly(alkylene glycol) alkyl ether." However, this rejection is traversed as the claims recite a "poly (alkylene glycol) ether," and, as such, the Applicants do not believe claims 16 and 37 are indefinite or confusing. Therefore, the Examiner's rejection of claims 16-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, has been overcome and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the Official Action, claims 16-31, 34-36 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Romano et al WO 97/31093 (hereinafter referred to as "Romano et al"). The Examiner asserted that Romano et al disclose a disinfecting composition having a disinfecting agent including peroxy bleach and anti-microbial essential oil or active thereof with a poly(alkylene glycol) ether being a preferred hydrophobic nonionic surfactant, where the disinfecting composition may also include conventional additives.